

February 20, 1976

made?

SENATOR DUIS: I don't know what you gained from it. I got the answer to my question and I would hate to interpret it for you because I want you to interpret it yourself. I am not trying to be flippant about it or I am not trying to have levity here but I can't interpret it for you.

SENATOR KEYES: Well, I will interpret your statement as that, and then, the second, Senator Stull, I have had lots of opposition from branding, in the branding area, people that have to brand their cattle that do not want to. Would you object to making it permissive for branding throughout the state, which it is now, and not mandatory in any part of the state? Senator Stull, would you oppose that?

SENATOR STULL: Senator Keyes, I want to be sure that I am interpreting your question. Do you mean just to make it optional in the branding area now whether they brand or not?

SENATOR KEYES: Yes. Is it mandatory that if you raise cattle in the branding area, you have to have them branded before you sell them?

SENATOR STULL: No, that isn't true. For years when I had a dairy herd, I never branded it, but when I got my range cattle, well, then I branded.

SENATOR KEYES: I understand, people tell me that it is mandatory. I know that in Sarpy and Cass County you can brand if you want to but I understood that in the branding area it was mandatory that your cattle be branded and inspected before they are sold. Am I wrong? I hope I am.

SENATOR STULL: Well, I don't think that it is mandatory but I would say that it is very necessary because I can show you here.

SENATOR KEYES: I believe I have been told that you don't have to brand them, and certainly if you don't have to, then it is all right.

SENATOR STULL: They have had, let's see, eight hundred, Senator Keyes, eight hundred and one cattle were stolen last year in one hundred and ninety instances and those cattle, the biggest share of them, were recovered and they actually checked brands and ownership on nearly four million head of cattle last year.

SENATOR KEYES: Senator Stull, if what I gain by the talk so far today is that you are trying to increase the fee for branding no matter where it is put on the critter from \$5 to \$15 and the main reason that you have to have this money is brand inspecting, I would certainly think you would want to go on the brand inspecting instead of the brand installation on the cattle. Instead of charging more for the brand, I would think you would want to go on the inspection.